

[For Private Circulation.]

REPORT OF AID
GIVEN TO
DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS
IN
1889.

We testify to the need of this charity, and believe that the money given to it will be faithfully and judiciously expended.

W. L. RICHARDSON, M.D.,
Physician of Boston Lying-in Hospital.

HELEN R. KELLOGG, M.D.,
Resident Physician of N. E. Hospital for Women and Children.

CHARLES P. PUTNAM, M.D.,
Admitting Physician to Mass. Infant Asylum.

OBJECT OF THIS CHARITY.

The object of this charity is:—

1. To give a short convalescence to any mother discharged with a young infant from a maternity hospital, no longer requiring medical care, but not yet able to work, and without means to procure the two or three weeks' rest so much needed at this period; also, occasionally, previous to the admission of applicants to these hospitals, to pay their board for a week or two, in case they are without a home, friendless, and penniless.

2. To find good boarding-places for those infants whose mothers are engaged in domestic service, or earning their living in any way which prevents their retaining the infants under their personal care, and to visit children so placed, in order to be sure that they have the attention which they require. Occasionally, also, a mother who lives in her own home receives temporary assistance.

3. Especially to watch over and befriend those unmarried mothers, who, not yet depraved, are in danger of falling into evil from their peculiarly exposed and friendless condition. A large portion of these are girls under twenty years of age.

In selecting from a large number of applicants those whom we assist, we are governed by the following considerations:—

1st. The love of the mother for her infant, and her corresponding desire to support it and retain it in her care.

2d. The urgent necessity and danger of those young unmarried girls who are without friends who can assist them. This class are usually orphans.

3d. The temporary poverty which is the occasional misfortune of some respectable married women, who often need only a little help for two or three weeks, until tided over this period.

On the other hand, we refuse,—

1st. Those who are actually depraved.

2d. Those who regard the care of their infants as a burden, from which they wish to be relieved.

3d. Those who, having earned good wages for a considerable time previous to the application, have neglected the opportunity to save money, and thus have less claim than others to receive charity.

4th. Those who have relatives able to assist them.

5th. Those who appear to be permanent paupers (a certain class of women familiar to workers in all charities).

Our work, therefore, resolves itself into,—

1st. The careful investigation of cases that present themselves.

2d. The selection of good boarding-places for infants, and the constant supervision of infants placed at board.

3d. A friendly and judicious care for the welfare of the younger and more helpless mothers.

REPORT.

We find that there is often misapprehension in regard both to the objects and methods of our work, and in this report we desire to call the attention of our friends to this subject.

As the name of our charity becomes better known we naturally receive a larger number of applications for assistance, and the mere investigation of so many cases becomes an arduous task. I need not say how willing and glad we are to help those whom it is the aim of our charity to assist, but our labor is increased by requests to aid those who do not belong to this class.

Briefly stated, our object is to assist a mother who has a young infant, and who desires to support her child and to retain it in her personal care, thus saving the mother and child from separation, and preventing one more from being added to the list of children supported by the state, or by charitable institutions. Often this help is only temporary, and after two or three weeks the mother is in a position to become self-supporting.

But it should be noticed that there are other "mothers and infants" whom this statement does not include, and of whom we cannot take charge, because our charity has a different object. In order to do our own work well we cannot undertake other work of a different nature. We print every year, at the beginning of our report, a list of those persons whom we do *not* assist; but find it necessary to emphasize this, and to give a fuller explanation of our objects and methods.

We do not assist the depraved. It is desirable that the depraved should be helped and reformed, but it is not work that can be combined with ours. We help many who might, perhaps, become depraved without our assistance, and we consider this an important part of our work.

We do not assist a mother who is unwilling, or permanently unable, to support her infant. There may be cases where it is necessary for a mother to part from her child, and there are good charitable institutions ready to receive such children. Our object is to prevent the unnecessary separation of mother and child, and by temporary aid to enable a mother, in time, wholly able to support her infant.

It is no part of our work to take charge of deserted infants.

Neither is it possible for us to add to our work the task of supplying boarding-places for infants of mothers not under our care. Besides the care and trouble which this would involve, harm would result which it would here take too long to specify.

We have found that the most desirable arrangement we can make for a mother and child is to send them into the country, into a small family, where the mother finds employment as a domestic, and receives low wages, in consideration of being allowed to keep her child with her.

This course has led to another misapprehension, many persons supposing that we have an intelligence office connected with our charity, and that we furnish domestics to applicants in general. We desire to call attention to our statement that the *only* domestics for whom we seek places are mothers with young children, and while we are very glad to send a mother with an infant to a situation suited to her abilities and needs—and such homes are to be found—all applications for a woman without a child, who will do a great amount of work for a very small remuneration, must necessarily be answered in the negative.

Too much of our time is employed in answers and explanations. If we can, in our printed report, make our objects and methods understood, we shall be saved time and trouble, and many of our applicants will be spared disappointment.

Since we began our work, fifteen or sixteen years ago, there has been an increasing interest shown in the welfare of these poor young mothers. This is a cause for gratitude; but to be of real use to any one, judgment is needed as well as sympathy; zeal alone, without the knowledge of the best methods, sometimes does harm. The position of a young unmarried mother is one of peril, and wisdom is needed to prevent her on the one hand from discouragement; but also on the other to guard against injudiciously expressed sympathy, which may make her exacting and unreasonable, and so render it difficult to assist her practically.

We make it a rule that a woman desiring our help shall first come to us, except when prevented by illness. This is important, because it places us in the right relation from the beginning, and prevents the woman from feeling that she grants

a favor by accepting our help. After we have seen her, and have learned something of her previous life, we know better how to meet her needs. Sometimes an interview with a woman brought to us by a friend and urgently recommended to our care, reveals the fact that she neither needs nor wishes for any help, preferring to arrange for herself, and being able to do so.

MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE.

MRS. W. C. WILLIAMSON.

MARY R. PARKMAN.

LILIAN FREEMAN CLARKE.

Subscriptions may be sent to MRS. JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE, Jamaica Plain, Mass., or to DR. C. P. PUTNAM, 63 Marlborough Street, Boston.

To prevent inconvenience, we add that the ladies who carry on this work are not able to see applicants at their homes, but will make an appointment in Boston, when it is desirable to do so.

RECEIVED DURING 1889.

On hand Jan. 1, 1889 \$317.14

Mrs. Geo. Baty Blake . . .	\$20.00	Mrs. J. E. Lodge . . .	\$50.00
Mrs. J. R. Blake . . .	5.00	Miss Anna C. Lowell . . .	100.00
Mrs. S. P. Blake . . .	5.00	Mrs. Augustus Lowell . . .	10.00
Mrs. Geo. William Bond . . .	5.00	Mrs. Geo. G. Lowell . . .	10.00
Mrs. W. S. Carter . . .	5.00	Mrs. Arthur T. Lyman . . .	50.00
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Mrs. D. P. Kimball . . .	100.00	Mrs. J. H. Wolcott . . .	50.00

DONATIONS OF CLOTHING.

Mrs. W. S. Carter.
 Mrs. E. C. Clarke.
 Mrs. A. S. Porter.
 Mrs. Geo. Faulkner
 Mrs. Wm. Parsons.

A Friend.
 Boston Sewing Circle, by Miss Loring.
 Benevolent Committee of Church of
 Disciples.

DESTITUTE MOTHERS AND INFANTS IN ACCOUNT WITH
ANNA H. CLARKE, *Treasurer.*

DR.

To Board of Women	\$308.71
Board of Children	721.93
Clothing of Women	233.72
Clothing of Children	159.98
Milk and Food	145.45
Fares and Travelling	172.22
Advertising	46.89
Medicine	5.15
Furniture	4.25
Rent	12.00
Printing	43.51
Sundries	110.35
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	\$1,964.16
Salary of Assistant (gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene)	459.00
Balance to new account	427.98
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	\$2,851.14

CR.

Jan. 1, 1889, by Cash on hand	\$ 317.14
By Subscription during 1889	2,003.00
Gift of Mrs. W. B. Greene, for salary of assistant	459.00
Interest on Bond	70.00
Money returned by a woman assisted	2.00
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	\$2,851.14

MOTHERS ASSISTED DURING 1889.

Old Cases (continued from 1888),	59
New Cases (first taken in 1889),	114
Whole number assisted in 1889,	173

Married Women (new cases),	45
Unmarried Women (new cases),	69
	114

Married Women (old cases),	13
Unmarried Women (old cases),	46
	59

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
(Married.)

Irish	2
Irish-American	2
American	3
Colored	2
English	1
Scotch	1
German Jew	1
Unknown	1
	13

NATIONALITY OF OLD CASES.
(Unmarried.)

Irish	8
Irish-American	9
American	5
British Provinces	12
English	3
Colored	2
German	2
German-American	1
Uncertain	4
	46

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.
(Married.)

Irish	13
Irish-American	9

American	4
Colored	5
English	3
German	2
British Provinces	4
Swedish	3
Scotch	1
Unknown	1
	45

NATIONALITY OF NEW CASES.
(Unmarried.)

Irish	28
Irish-American	9
American	14
British Provinces	6
Colored	4
Scotch	2
Swedish	2
English	1
Portuguese	1
Polish Jew	1
German-American	1
	69

AGES OF NEW CASES.
(Unmarried.)

14 years old	1
16 " "	2
17 " "	3
18 " "	1
19 " "	5
20 " "	7
21 " "	9
22 " "	9
23 " "	6
24 " "	4
25 " "	4
26 " "	6
27 " "	2
28 " "	5
29 " "	1
Unknown	4
	69

